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Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 7 January 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 15 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 7 January 2008, inclusive

Air violations

On 1 January 2008:

- Between 1630 and 1800 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the regions of Jazzin and Nabatiyah;
- Between 2007 and 2130 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the sea off Tyre, circled over the sea between Sidon and Naqurah, then left over the sea off Naqurah;
- At 1918 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the Shab'a Farms, circled over the regions of Riyaq, Baalbek and the south, then left at 0018 hours on 2 January 2008 over Khiyam.

On 2 January 2008, Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the regions of Bint Jubayl and Tibnin at various altitudes.

On 3 January 2008, between 0910 and 0920 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl region at high altitude.

On 6 December 2007:

- Between 1008 and 1110 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace; they entered over Kafr Kila heading north, proceeded as far as Shikka, circled over the regions of al-Arz, the Bekaa and Beirut, then headed south and left over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1015 and 1052 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace; they entered over Kafr Kila heading north, proceeded as far as Beirut, circled between Beirut and the regions of the south, then left over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1800 and 1900 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Naqurah area.

Sea violations

On 1 January 2008, between 2000 and 2100 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters off Ra's Naqurah fired a flare shell over Lebanese territorial waters, while another gunboat directed a searchlight for 15 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.

On 2 January 2008, at 2115 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters off the Ra's Naqurah post directed a searchlight for 12 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 2 January 2008:

- At 1711 hours, an Israeli enemy military vehicle in the vicinity of the observation tower of the Manara settlement shined a searchlight for two minutes towards the Lebanese Army's observation tower at al-Manara/Houla.

- At 1845 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for two minutes and twenty seconds from the western gate of the Zar`it barracks towards the Marwahin triangle. At 2045 hours, the enemy shined a searchlight for 20 seconds from the aforementioned post towards the same triangle.

On 3 January 2008, at 0055 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight mounted on a Hummer vehicle for 10 seconds from point *ghayn*-31 (the Zar`it barracks) towards Jabal Balat (Marwahin).

On 4 January 2008, at 2140 hours, Israeli enemy forces shined a searchlight for 15 seconds from their position at Saliha towards the Lebanese Army post and its perimeter in the town of Marun al-Ra's.

On 5 January 2008, at 1855 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for 15 seconds from the western gate of the Zar`it barracks towards the observation post of the Lebanese Army, the observation post of the Ghanaian contingent and the Marwahin triangle. At 2005 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for one minute from its position at Saliha towards the plain of the town of Marun al-Ra's.

On 6 January 2008:

- At 1740 hours, inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of al-`Adaysa, an Israeli enemy patrol made up of two Hummer vehicles twice shined a searchlight for 50 seconds towards the Lebanese Army checkpoint at al-`Adaysa. In response, personnel stationed at the checkpoint shined a searchlight from an "REO" truck for 30 seconds towards the aforementioned patrol.

- At 1835 hours, searchlights from two Hummer vehicles at the Saliha position were directed at the plain of Marun al-Ra's for three minutes.

- At 2025 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising three Hummer vehicles shined a searchlight from the vicinity of the Zar`it barracks towards the outskirts of Marwahin. In response, personnel at the Ghanaian contingent's checkpoint in the town's triangle shined a searchlight for 15 seconds towards those barracks.

On 7 January 2008:

- At 1600 hours, on the outskirts of the towns of Halta and Hasbayya, near the occupied Shab`a Farms, Israeli enemy forces kidnapped the citizen Fadi Abdul Al as he was herding some cattle.

- At 1930 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for one and a half minutes from the western gate of the Zar`it barracks towards the Marwahin triangle. At 2245 hours, the enemy then shined a searchlight for two minutes from the same barracks towards the aforementioned area and then, at 2310 hours, did so once again for a period of 15 seconds.

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Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 January 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In 2005, Israel disengaged from the Gaza Strip with the hope that the Palestinians would govern the area responsibly. Regrettably, this did not happen. Since then my delegation has repeatedly warned that Gaza is turning into a launching pad for violence and terrorism. Over the past few years, and particularly in recent months, we have written to inform you of this fact. Since June 2007, when Hamas violently took control of Gaza, more than 1,000 Qassam rockets and mortar shells were fired at Israel. And Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups continue their quest to murder Israelis and destroy Israel.

As we have said before, Israel will not stand idly by as its citizens are under constant attack. Israel reserves the right to defend itself from all armed attacks, as any other nation would, according to its inherent right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. My delegation has repeatedly pressed the United Nations to denounce all acts of violence and terrorism, and condemn States that aid and abet terrorists groups, which is a violation of their obligations under international law, as well as Security Council resolutions. Yet the violence continues and nothing is done to end terrorism or support for it.

In this light, I regret to inform you of two particularly alarming acts of terrorism which occurred today, and that underscore the urgency for action and the need to counter the violence from Gaza. Early this morning, a Palestinian terrorist shot and killed Carlos Andres Chavez, a 20-year-old volunteer from Ecuador, who was working in Kibbutz Ein Hashlosha, located near the coast in southern Israel. Later in the day, at least four people were wounded, including a woman and her five-year-old daughter after their home sustained a direct hit by a rocket in the southern town of Sderot. More than 25 Qassam rockets were fired by Palestinian terrorists. An additional 24 mortars were fired by Hamas and others.

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These vicious acts of Palestinian terrorism are indicative of the daily and fatal dangers facing Israeli civilians, particularly those living near the Gaza Strip. Normal life has been interrupted in Sderot, where there was no electricity for several hours today following the attack. While Israel remains committed to advancing the peace process — as demonstrated by the meeting yesterday between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, which continued in the spirit of Annapolis — the Palestinian Authority has not succeeded to effectively combat terrorism and fulfil its obligations under the various agreements, including the Road Map. As these two attacks remind us, Palestinian terrorism remains the greatest obstacle to peace and security in the region. The Palestinian leadership must stop the violence, dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, end the cycle of impunity, and bring the terrorists to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the contents of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Daniel **Carmon**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.